

## **DIVISION OF BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Workforce Development Programs at a Glance**

#### **The Workforce Investment Act and other Federally Funded Programs**

**Adult Program** – The federally funded Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult program provides employment and job training assistance to low income Alaskans with priority given to Veterans and those on public assistance. In state FY 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$1,975,000 to the Employment Security Division to deliver WIA Adult services to 614 Alaskans through the Alaska Job Center Network.

**Dislocated Worker Program** – The federally funded WIA Dislocated Worker program provides re-training and employment assistance to individuals who have lost their job through no fault of their own and need assistance to find re-employment or develop new or updated skills to re-enter the workforce. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$2,725,000 to the Employment Security Division to deliver WIA Dislocated Worker services to 440 Alaskans through the Alaska Job Center Network.

**Youth Program** – The federally funded WIA youth program provides assistance to low income youth age 14 through 21 with challenges to employment. For State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$2,091,000 to 17 grant recipients in addition to a service agreement with the Employment Security Division to deliver youth services to 1,165 youth.

**Statewide Activities Funds** – The federally funded WIA statewide activities funds provides funding for data collection, program evaluation, administration of the eligible training providers list, and operation of the local one stop job centers. The fund also provides for capacity building in the area of staff development and innovative job training programs such as the Career Readiness Certificate; \$270,000 was granted out in State Fiscal Year 2008.

**Rapid Response Program** – The federally funded WIA Rapid Response program provides support to businesses and workers experiencing a downturn in employment due to economic or natural disasters. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$500,300 to the Employment Security Division to respond to 78 business closures or reductions in force and provide information services to 908 Alaskans.

**Alaska's Salmon Fisheries Response Project** – The federally funded WIA National Emergency Grant provided assistance to commercial salmon fishery workers impacted by the economic disaster due to a decline in fish prices. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the

Division of Business Partnerships provided \$413,200 to the Division of Employment Security to deliver employment services and training opportunities to 98 salmon fishery workers. This was the third year of a three year grant. A total of 724 people were served.

**Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)** – The federally funded WIA BRAC, National Emergency Grant program provided support for communities that are likely to experience job loss due to the closure of a military base. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$95,419 to the City of Galena and the Employment Security Division to plan for the closure of the Galena Air Force Base.

**Pipeline Demonstration Grant** – The pipeline demonstration grant is a federally funded WIA program awarded to the Division of Business Partnerships through a partnership with the North Slope Contractors Association, the Joint Petroleum Crafts Council and Alaska Works Partnerships a program was established to train Alaskans on the installation and maintenance of oil and gas pipelines in Alaska. In FY 2007 the Division of Business Partnerships awarded \$319,433 to Alaska Works Partnerships to train and place 100 union and non-union Alaskans under this program.

**The Alaska Pipeline Worker Training Project** – In State Fiscal Year 2008, the Department was award a federally funded Dislocated Worker Demonstration grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration for \$7.5 million over five years, targeting training for more than 2,500 Alaska workers involved in the state's pipeline maintenance and construction activities, with an emphasis on preparing the workforce as pipeline activity ramps up over the next several years. The grant is considered "seed money" that will help the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development leverage various partnerships and investments, including more than \$7.6 million appropriated by the Alaska Legislature from the state general fund, to attract and train the next generation of Alaskans for ongoing pipeline work and the impending gasline construction. It is anticipated that \$1,500,000 will be expended this State Fiscal Year to train 200 pipeline workers as well as over 300 pre-apprentices from the regional training centers and the Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center.

**High Growth Job Training Initiative for Energy** – In State Fiscal Year 2006, the Department was awarded a President's High Growth Job Training Initiative grant for workforce development in the energy sector. Alaska's High Growth grant for energy is a federally funded partnership between industry and the state to create increased awareness in energy careers and increase the supply of trained workers for oil, gas and mineral extraction industries including related construction and transportation activities. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships awarded 11 grants to non-profits providing information and outreach services to youth; seven grants to local school districts providing information and training to students; and four

service agreements to other state divisions and the University for information, referral, outreach, employment and training services to youth and adults, for a total of \$3,054,910 to assist 19,262 Alaskans.

### **State General Fund and other State Funded Training Programs**

**State Training and Employment Program** – The purpose of the state funded State Training and Employment Program (STEP) is to reduce current and future claims against unemployment benefits, foster new jobs due to the availability of a skilled labor force, increase training opportunities to the state's workers to protect against fluctuations in the economy, and to prepare for technological changes in the workplace. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$4,414,619 to 16 union and non union grantees, in addition to a reimbursable service agreement to the Employment Security Division, to deliver employment and training assistance to 1,586 Alaskans.

**Alaska's Youth First Initiative** – The Alaska Youth First Initiative received a General Fund appropriation of \$850,000 by the Alaska Legislature for State Fiscal Year 2007. The Youth First Initiative filled gaps in the workforce system by focusing on career awareness and work experience opportunities for Alaska's youth. By partnering with seven school districts and five non-profit organizations, the Division of Business Partnerships assisted 278 individual youth receive all three of the following services: career guidance, skills training and work experience. Other FY 07 outcomes include: 649 youth served through career guides; 844 youth completed at least one Youth Employability Skill activity; 297 youth participated in paid and un-paid work experience; and six teachers received continuing education credits. Funding for this program was increased by the Alaska Legislature to \$2.3 million in FY 08.

**The Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP)** – The state funded Technical Vocational Education Program provides supplemental funding to regional vocational education centers. The Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue, Yuut Elitnaurviat in Bethel, and the Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center in King Salmon received \$1,082,900 in State Fiscal Year 2008 to provide services aligned with the priorities of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board.

**Regional Training Center Programs funded by General Fund** – This state funded program provided operational funding for the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue and the Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Center in Nome. This funding helps meet the operational and maintenance needs of the centers. In State Fiscal Year 2008, the state granted \$1,000,000 in GF to the two regional learning centers.

**Alaska Construction Academy Capital Improvement Project** – The Associated General Contractors, in partnership with the State Home Builders Association, the Divisions of

Business Partnerships and Employment Security, Alaska Works Partnerships, and the Anchorage and Fairbanks North Star Borough School Districts, will train 400 youth and adults through local construction academies hosted at the King Career Center and the Hutchison Career Center. This state funded \$2,000,000 capital project for FY 2008 provides training, equipment, supplies and the contractual expenses associated with developing Alaska's construction workforce.

**Denali Commission Training Programs (Administered/Managed by Division of Business Partnerships)**

**Denali Training Fund (DTF) Grants** – The federally funded Denali Training Fund provides job training assistance to residents of communities where Denali Commission projects are planned or underway to ensure local residents have the opportunity to learn and earn an income from the local project. The Denali Training Fund focuses its training resources on developing skills in the construction and transportation industries for heavy equipment and healthcare occupations. In FY 2007, the DTF awarded 16 grants to state and local agencies and, for-profit and not-for-profit entities totaling \$1,200,000 to train 549 rural Alaskans.

**Denali Youth Grants** – The federally funded Denali Youth Grants provide career awareness, work experience and training for young Alaskans in careers related to projects funded by the Denali Commission. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division of Business Partnerships awarded \$814,023 to 11 local schools, school districts, and not-for-profit agencies to assist 296 youth ages 16 through 24 with employment and training information and referral.

**Denali Commission Designated Grants** – The federally funded Denali Commission designated grants serve a specialized functioning in addressing long term training needs of youth and adults. The five designated grantees provide intensive training, documentation of skills and training, and an economic boost to rural residents. The Division of Business Partnerships awarded grants at the direction of the Denali Commission to Alaska Works Partnerships, Associated General Contractors, Cape Fox Native Association, First Alaskans Institute, and the University of Alaska. In State Fiscal Year 2007, the Division awarded \$2,612,657 to serve 1,782 Alaskans.